

Regarding the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "Video Franchising".

From: Jack Nelson

Escalante, Utah

Viewer and supporter of PBS, on KUED as well as FSTV (Free Speech Television) and LINK TV.

It has very recently come to my attention that changes in legislation affecting the ownership and operations of local television are being considered, such that telephone companies will be able to "merge" into the television market, and in so doing, taking over the management and direction of local Public access television, which includes Educational as well as Governmental programming. This would remove laws requiring access for local franchising, which currently insures that local citizens and communities are able to maintain control, influence, and personal access to TV operations as regards both competitive business practices as well as a local public TV forum.

It is extremely important to me, as well as my more contemplative friends and associates, that we keep and protect this essential local forum, where local problems, solutions, arts, and all other community pertinent presentations and communications can be broadcast through what serves as the most popular and readily accessible societal information distributor: Television.

Local news, community affairs, and all real diversity are ever more becoming pushed aside in favor of an homogenized, impersonal, widely distributed onslaught of corporate beneficial propaganda mixed with hypnotically uninteresting "slime" and "blow it up" movies. Some of the public – certainly a larger percentage than is being represented through any commercial broadcast channels – wishes to preserve the possibility of presenting and viewing programs of interest and importance to all social movements towards humane and peaceable cohabitation of our world.

Do not kick the vestiges of foundation from under our hopes for real Democracy, which can only develop and prosper within an atmosphere of unhampered public communication.

I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

Counting upon your consideration

Jack Nelson